

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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High Prizes

By Walter E. Myer

YOUR manners, said Ralph Waldo Emerson, are always under examination. You are being watched by committees that you know nothing about and these committees "are awarding or denying you very high prizes when you least think of it."

Who are these observers that pay such close attention to your behavior? They are your friends and neighbors, your teammates, classmates, teachers or employers. They are the people with whom you associate day by day, the people who know how you act under all kinds of circumstances. They do not judge you by your thoughts, for they cannot see what goes on in your mind. They judge you by your acts, your behavior, your manners.

But what about the prizes of which Emerson speaks—the prizes which those who observe us award or deny? In a real sense we receive or lose prizes every day. Those who like our behavior reward us with their friendship and admiration, and that means a great deal, for we can't very well get along without friends.

One has a chance to practice good manners wherever he may be. The quality of your behavior certainly stands out clearly in the classroom. The ill-mannered student betrays his crudeness in many ways. He may laugh at the mistakes of others; he may wave his hand when a fellow student is speaking, or whisper or fail to pay attention when a discussion is in progress.

How different is the student who shows good will in every act; who is thoughtful, attentive, friendly and cooperative. Such a person is quite certain, sooner or later, to be rewarded with popularity and success.

Manners count for a great deal on the athletic field. The poor loser, the boasting winner, the fellow who takes advantage of his opponent, who violates the rules when he thinks he can do so—such a person is displaying the all too common marks of crudeness.

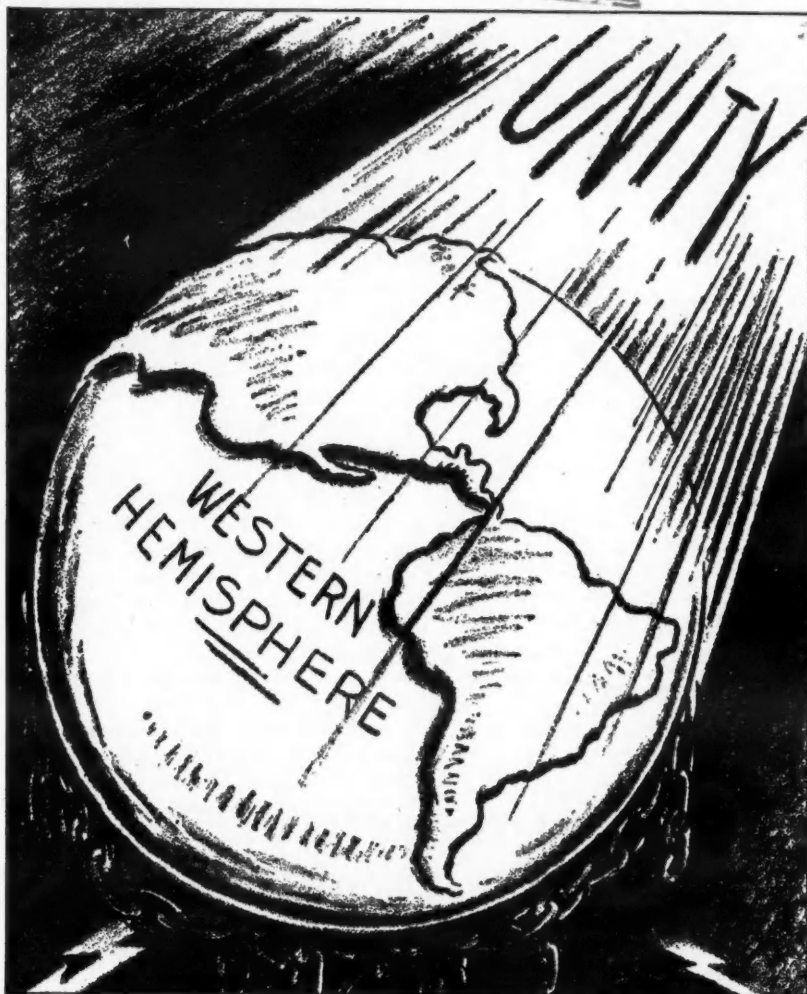


Walter E. Myer

It is in the home that courtesy counts most, for each one spends so much of his time there, and members of a family depend so much on one another. Rudeness, lack of sympathy and consideration, bad manners, are tragic in their consequences.

But thoughtfulness, understanding, and a deep concern for the feelings of others will insure a home life that is rich and satisfying. The members of your family cannot help but note these qualities in you, for they stand out like beacons in all who possess them. You will be rewarded by the high prizes of which Emerson speaks—you will have the admiration and respect of your relatives and friends.

You will enjoy something more than the respect of your friends. You will win the rich prize of self-respect. You will have the great satisfaction which comes to one who lives in accordance with judgment and conscience. This high prize is within reach of all.



SUNNY SIDE UP! Inter-American relations have steadily improved in recent years

Hemisphere Strides

Celebration of Pan American Day Calls to Mind the Spirit of Unity that Has Grown Among Nations of New World

ON April 14, the 20 Latin American republics and the United States will celebrate Pan American Day. This day was set aside in 1890 as one on which these countries would make special efforts to foster a spirit of friendship and solidarity in the Western Hemisphere. Throughout the years since 1890, Pan American Day has been observed—but the spirit it was intended to foster has not always been apparent.

During these years, feelings among the American nations have wavered. At some times, there has been an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual respect. At others, feelings of distrust, hostility, and suspicion have characterized the scene.

In the past, and even today, when people have spoken of inter-American relations they have really referred to the feelings that have existed between the United States, on the one hand,

and the group of Latin American countries, on the other. There have, of course, been quarrels and negotiations among the nations of Central and South America. Boundary disputes, trade talks, and conferences of many kinds have taken place, and the United States has had little or no part in them.

But because the U. S. has been the strongest and the wealthiest of the American nations, it has had a great deal of influence over developments in this Hemisphere. Certain of our policies have been popular with the people south of the Rio Grande, while some of our actions have made us disliked by many Latin Americans.

The first important policy adopted by our country in its relations with Latin America was the Monroe Doctrine, proclaimed in 1823. The Doctrine succeeded in its primary aim—that of keeping European nations from adding to their territorial possessions in this Hemisphere. But it was not designed to promote cooperation among the nations of North and South America, and it did little along that line.

From the time the Doctrine was issued until the late 1840's, there was

(Concluded on page 2)

Dispute Over Veterans' Aid

Does the U. S. Government Give Sufficient Assistance to Its Ex-Servicemen?

THE United States now has nearly 19 million living war veterans—over three-fourths of them were in World War II. Former members of the armed services make up about an eighth of our population.

It is generally agreed that America owes a heavy debt to these men and women. Many of them risked their lives; many are totally or partially disabled; and all spent a great deal of time in helping to defend their nation.

Nevertheless, there is considerable disagreement, even among veterans themselves, as to how far the government should go in granting them pensions and other special benefits. A great deal of controversy over pension measures has arisen in the present session of Congress, and similar disputes are certain to occur for years to come.

An example of the proposals that can be expected was the pension measure which Representative John Rankin of Mississippi introduced early this year. Under it, every veteran of World War I and World War II would have received \$90 per month after reaching the age of 65. There would have been additional benefits for disabled ex-servicemen and for veterans' widows. It is estimated that this program, exclusive of all other veterans' aid measures, eventually would have cost the government about 7 billion dollars per year.

By the close vote of 208 to 207, the House of Representatives set the proposal aside last month. Representative Rankin then introduced a less extensive pension bill which, as we go to press, seems to have a

(Concluded on page 6)



PHYSICAL REHABILITATION is a vital part of the program in the veterans' hospitals.



MAP FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

Pan American Relations

(Concluded from page 1)

little contact among the American countries. The United States was primarily concerned with its own problems—industrial growth was beginning and the nation was expanding to the West. The southern lands, on the other hand, were busy freeing themselves from their Spanish rulers.

In the late 1840's, the war between our country and Mexico caused much suspicion and bitterness toward us in Latin America. We were accused of keeping European countries out of this Hemisphere so we could dominate it ourselves. For some years after the war ended, feelings were so strained that there was no hope of promoting Hemispheric cooperation.

In 1889, however, the First International Conference of American States met in Washington, D. C. It was called by the U. S. Secretary of State in an attempt to get the countries of this Hemisphere to work together.

Union Established

The conference continued throughout the early months of 1890, and on April 14—now celebrated as Pan American Day—the delegates voted to establish the International Union of American Republics. This organization was not to be a political one. It was to assist its member countries by collecting and distributing information, particularly that relating to commerce and industry.

Unfortunately, the International Union of American Republics—which came to be known as the Pan American Union—did not bring peace and solidarity to the Western Hemisphere. Instead, feelings among the nations seemed to go from bad to worse and the idea of unity receded farther and farther into the background.

Between 1900 and 1930, relations between the United States and the Latin countries became increasingly strained because of certain business factors. At that time—as today—the southern nations had rich natural resources that were virtually undeveloped. Businessmen from our country went into the countries and lent them money to help open mines, improve the farms, and build factories.

These U. S. investments were threatened, though, by the fact that revolutions often broke out in the Latin American nations, and our government felt it had to take steps to protect these financial interests. U. S. armed forces were sometimes stationed in the island nations of the Caribbean.

In some instances, we even obtained important concessions from the governments of our southern neighbors. An amendment to the Cuban Constitution, for example, gave the United States the right to intervene in Cuban affairs to maintain a government capable of keeping peace.

We claimed that such steps were necessary to protect U. S. interests, but the Latin nations strongly resented our actions. They referred to the United States as the "Colossus of the North" and spoke of our negotiations with them as "Dollar Diplomacy."

In the early 1930's a new era of Hemispheric relations—the Good Neighbor policy—came into being. The U. S. in a treaty signed at Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1933 agreed not to intervene in the national affairs of other countries in this Hemisphere. We also went on record as favoring the development of trade among the nations and we began to push the idea of peaceful settlement of political disputes.

During the rest of the 1930's, until the time that World War II broke out, inter-American relations improved. There were signs that the countries to the south still distrusted our motives in inaugurating the Good Neighbor policy, but slowly hostility and suspicion gave way to a real spirit of cooperation.

This spirit reached its height during the war, when most of the Latin nations entered the conflict on the side of the Allies. While these countries were not called upon to send large numbers of troops to Europe, they made important contributions in other ways. Often at great sacrifice to themselves, they furnished raw materials and stepped up production of their industries to make available supplies that were badly needed.

By and large, Hemispheric relations have continued to be good since the end of the war. Our relations with Argentina have been strained at times, but they are better today than they were for a quite a while.

About a year ago, at a conference held in Bogotá, the Pan American Union was changed into a strong association with power to act in many different situations. The Union was renamed the Organization of American States (OAS). Its members are the 21 nations that will soon celebrate Pan American Day—Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The OAS is founded on four basic principles—each of which should contribute to the extension of peace and prosperity in this Hemisphere.

The first is that *law, order, and good faith shall govern the relations among the member states.*

The second is that *an act of aggression against one American state is an act of aggression against all of them.* (This principle is based on the important defense treaty signed in 1947 in Rio de Janeiro.)

The third is that *controversies arising between two or more American states shall be settled by peaceful procedures.*

The fourth is that *lasting peace and well-being and prosperity of the American people are based on political democracy.*

The OAS is organized along lines similar to those of the United Nations.

A permanent secretariat, called the Pan American Union and occupying the Union's buildings in Washington, D. C., conducts the OAS's day-to-day business. A Council or governing board, made up of representatives from the member states, directs the over-all policies of the organization. It is in continuous session in Washington.

The Inter-American Conference is the real governing body of the OAS, and is in some ways like the General Assembly of the UN. The Conference meets every five years and establishes the general policies that the OAS will follow.

If matters of urgent importance arise between regular meetings of the Conference—matters that are too complex to be dealt with by the Council—a special session may be called. This is a "Meeting of Consultation."

Technical Agencies

The OAS—like the UN—does much of its work through specialized agencies. These are permanent bodies that work on technical problems in different fields. They include such organizations as the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, the Inter-American Radio Office, and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

While the OAS has thus far been doing an excellent job in many ways, one difficult problem still hangs over the entire scene of Hemispheric relations. That is the need for industrial and agricultural development in Latin American nations. The OAS is undertaking projects to improve conditions along these lines, but at the root of the problem is the fact that the southern nations must have industrial goods which only the United States can supply.

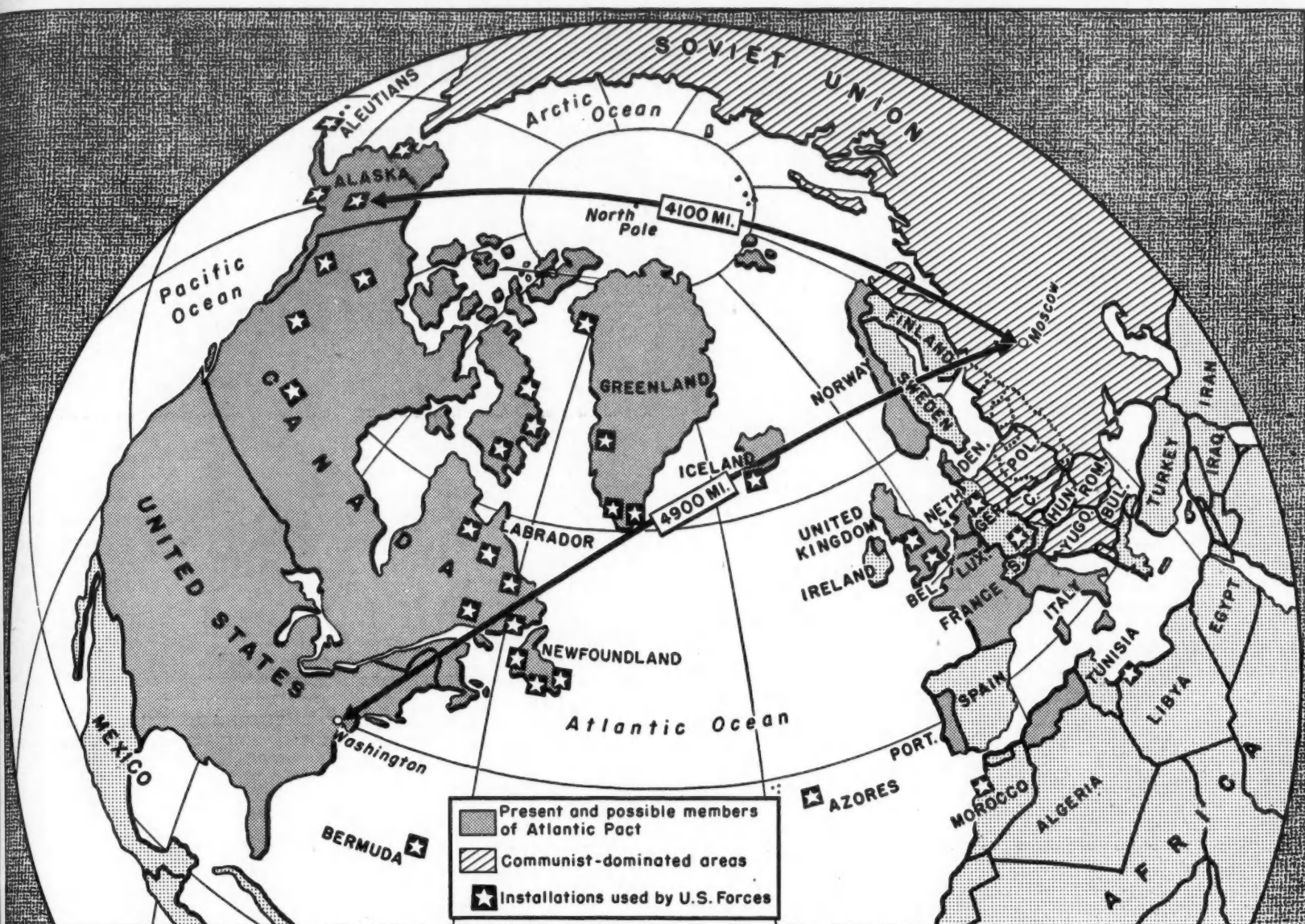
Last year at the Bogotá conference, these countries urged the U. S. to establish a "Marshall Plan" for them, and since then requests have been made for loans from our government. But the United States, which is busy at this time sending goods to Europe under the European Recovery Program, does not feel it can also spend large sums in Latin America.

Some hard feelings have resulted from this situation, but the conflict is not likely to disturb seriously the friendly atmosphere that now prevails in the Western Hemisphere. Nevertheless, it presents a problem that will continue to require our attention and understanding.



IT'S FIESTA TIME in Mexico for this little boy and girl

BLACK STAR



TOP OF THE WORLD. This map shows Greenland's location in the North Atlantic and gives the air distances between certain key countries by the "short" polar routes

Island of Greenland Lies in Two Defense Zones

Can Benefit from Hemisphere Pact and from North Atlantic Agreement

AS a result of Denmark's joining the North Atlantic Pact, Greenland is now one of the best-protected areas in the world. In the event she is attacked by a foreign power, she can now call upon the aid of the signatories of both the Atlantic Pact and the Treaty of Rio de Janeiro. She is entitled to the help of the nations of the North Atlantic Security Alliance because she is a colony of Denmark. She is guaranteed the assistance of the countries of the Western Hemisphere because she lies within the Western Hemisphere's "defense area."

Greenland is considered of great importance in any future conflict because of her strategic position in the Atlantic Ocean. Situated approximately half-way between North America and Europe, she could serve as a "way station" for aircraft traveling from one continent to the other.

Polar Island

She is also considered important because of her potential value in any war fought over the North Pole. About three-quarters of her territory is located north of the Arctic Circle and she is thus within flying distance of Northern Europe, Russia, Siberia, and, of course, the United States and Canada.

Greenland demonstrated her great value to military aviation during the last war. When Denmark was conquered by Germany Greenland was, presumably, also under German control

because of her status as a Danish colony. But the Danish government, which fled to England, signed an agreement with the United States permitting us to build air bases as well as weather and radio stations on Greenland.

From 1941 to the end of the war in Europe, Greenland proved her strategic worth to the Allied nations. The airfields we established there were used as refueling and repair stations by American bombers flying to join the conflict in Europe. They were also used by various aircraft traveling in the other direction—that is, to the United States and Canada.

Weather Stations

The weather stations on Greenland assisted our armed forces in a number of striking ways. They provided information about the weather not only of the North Atlantic area but also of Northern and Western Europe. The facts they gathered are said to have influenced the decision of General Eisenhower to set June 6, 1944 as the date for the invasion of Europe.

Greenland's weather stations could forecast what the weather might be like on the European continent because of the island's geographic position. As has been pointed out, she is not only located approximately midway between North America and Europe but is also very close to the North Pole. Thus, she is near the center of where weather is "made." Because

of this fact, she was nicknamed by our GI's during the war as "Europe's weather factory."

Before our troops landed on Greenland in 1941, the island was used for a time by the Germans, who had come to appreciate its value as much as we had. When we set foot on Greenland territory, we found that the Germans had built weather stations there and were using the information they obtained to guide their military operations in Europe. After a number of minor battles, we conquered the various German units on the island and subsequently it remained firmly under the control of the United States and its allies.

Greenland was first colonized by Norwegians but it came under the domination of Denmark about 200 years ago. It is administered today by two "inspectors," each of whom is in charge of half the island. Both are appointed by the Danish king and are responsible for their activities to the Danish Ministry of Home Affairs.

Trade on the island is controlled by the Royal Greenland Trade Mission, which is owned by the Danish government and has a monopoly of all of Greenland's economic activities. The mission fixes the prices of all products sold within the colony and determines what commodities should be bought from other countries.

The population of this "sub-continent" is approximately 20,000, of whom about 400 are Danes. The rest

are Eskimos. There are today a small number of Americans on the island, but they live at the few air bases and weather stations we still maintain there, and they do not participate in the normal, every-day life of the natives.

Coastal Settlements

Approximately four-fifths of Greenland—or an area three times the size of California—is covered by ice, and the only land that is habitable lies along the coast. Most of the settlements on the island are on the southern and western shores, where such vegetables as carrots and turnips are grown and where cattle and sheep are raised.

Greenland buys food and clothing in other nations. It sells foreign countries salted fish, seal skins, fish oils, and cryolite. The latter product is a mineral that is used in the manufacture of aluminum. Approximately half of the island's annual output of cryolite is bought by companies in the United States.

With the exception of Australia, which is considered an island-continent, Greenland is the largest island in the world. It covers an area of approximately 800,000 square miles and is thus about 12 times as large as the six New England states combined. From north to south, it measures approximately 1,400 miles, while from east to west it is about 690 miles.

—By DAVID BEILES.

The Story of the Week

End of the Draft?

If voluntary enlistments keep up as well as they have in the last nine months, it seems likely that no more young men will be drafted into the armed services between now and the summer of 1950. That is the opinion of Army leaders. They point out, however, that a change in the international situation might alter the picture at any time.

More than 9 million young men 18 through 25 years of age registered last September, but less than 30,000 of them have been drafted. The comparatively small number of draftees is due to the fact that about 360,000 men have either voluntarily enlisted or have signed up for ROTC programs. Thus, the armed services have been kept at adequate strength without having to fall back heavily on the draft.

The present peacetime selective service law is scheduled to expire on June 23, 1950. If the present situation continues, the law may not be extended beyond that time.

Nimitz to Kashmir

Admiral Chester Nimitz, wartime Allied commander in the Pacific, will soon arrive in Kashmir at the northern tip of India to take over his new job. He is to serve as United Nations administrator for the elections which will determine whether that state will become a permanent part of Pakistan or of the Dominion of India.

Following a dispute of many months, it was agreed last January to permit the UN to hold an election in which the people of this land will decide their future status. The ruler of Kashmir is a Hindu and he wants his country permanently bound to the Dominion of India. The majority of the people of Kashmir, however, are Moslems, and many of them prefer to join the Moslem Dominion of Pakistan.

Admiral Nimitz, whose appointment was announced late last month by UN Secretary General Trygve Lie, has a difficult task before him. Since a free election has never been held in Kashmir, voting lists will have to be drawn up and the people of the region will

have to be taught the voting procedure. The election will probably not be held until late this year or perhaps not until 1950.

Action on Rent Control

The new rent-control act, now in effect, is expected to end controls in certain of the nation's relatively uncrowded areas during the coming months. In such areas, landlords may be given permission to charge whatever prices they want to tenants for apartments and other rental property. But in heavily populated regions where the housing shortage is still acute, the law will probably mean that controls will be retained in much their present form.

The new law says that rents shall continue to be controlled until July 1, 1950, but it makes certain provisions for states and local communities to remove controls if they think that the need for them is over. Most localities are expected to continue rent control for a while longer, at least, but many may act quickly to permit landlords to charge what they please.

The extension of rent controls was pledged by President Truman last fall, and it is the first major campaign promise of the President to be enacted into law by Congress. Although the act is not as "strong" as the one Mr. Truman requested, the President praised the measure as an "effective" step in protecting tenants until the housing shortage is further relieved.

The Pact and the UN

Does the North Atlantic Pact weaken the United Nations? The signing of the defensive alliance by the western powers on April 4 and the opening of the UN General Assembly a day later have combined to make this question the subject of considerable discussion the past few days.

Some observers—although they believe the pact is necessary—maintain that it is a blow to the UN. The opinion they advance is as follows:

"The fact that the western nations have drawn up such a pact on their own indicates that they have little



A NEW STATUE of George Washington is about to be completed. The clay model, shown on the left, has been finished after two years of work and is now ready to be done in bronze. Next February, the 17-foot statue standing beside the 12-foot chair, shown on the right, will be unveiled at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia.



faith in the United Nations. For obviously the treaty would never have been formulated if the world organization had been successful in bringing an end to the differences between the western powers and the Soviet bloc.

"By ignoring the UN and going ahead themselves, the western powers have lessened the prestige of the world organization and have made it even more difficult than previously for the United Nations to carry out its objectives."

Others take a more optimistic view of the effect of the North Atlantic Pact on the UN. They put forth this opinion:

"The right to form regional defensive alliances was guaranteed in the United Nations Charter. Therefore, the North Atlantic Pact is entirely within the framework of the UN."

"Since the United Nations has little power at this time to enforce its decisions, it is better to acknowledge its

weaknesses and to take realistic steps that will help the cause of peace. Such a step is the formation of the North Atlantic Pact. Meanwhile, the UN should continue to try to bring about agreements in international disputes, and in time it will acquire the prestige which it deserves."

Norwegian Ships

Norway is building a large number of ships for its merchant fleet. Since the end of the war, in fact, it has increased the tonnage of its fleet from about 2½ million tons to approximately 4½ million.

The Norwegians lost a great many ships during World War II. The Germans seized a large number when they invaded Norway in 1940, and sank many others that had escaped capture and joined the Allied forces.

Almost 80 per cent of the country's present merchant marine is engaged in trade between one foreign port and another. Many Norwegian ships, for instance, are used solely to carry fruit from South America to the United States. Rarely do they touch a Norwegian port.

Modern Forty-niners

Exactly 100 years after the California gold strike, a new rush is on, but this time it is for the mysterious "black gold" known as uranium. Prospectors by the dozens are flocking into our western states and into Canada in search of the valuable metal which is the raw material of atomic power.

Hundreds of claims have been staked out during the past winter by the modern forty-niners. Prospectors are active in Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and other states where uranium is known to exist. The Canadian province of Ontario—just north of the Great Lakes—is also the scene of a great rush. This area, where pitchblende containing uranium has been found, has attracted many miners from the United States, for it is easier to stake a claim in Canada than in



"WHY BE SO NEGATIVE?"

This cartoonist feels that, in addition to combating communism, the United States should push its ideals of democracy by a show of positive statesmanship throughout the world.



"HERE'S YOUR CHANCE, SENATOR"

Many members of Congress talk about economizing on public expenditures, but few are doing much to bring about government reorganization as recommended by the Hoover group.

this country where most good mining land is already in private hands.

Both the United States and Canada are offering large rewards to prospectors who find uranium in sizable quantities. For example, the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission is offering a reward of \$10,000 for the discovery of deposits of high-grade ore and is paying about \$7,000 a ton for uranium oxide. Now that spring is here, work will soon get under way in exploiting some of the claims which have been staked out during the past winter.

Indian Question

The Prime Ministers of all the British dominions are meeting in London the latter part of this month to discuss India's future relations with the British Commonwealth of Nations. According to the new Indian constitution now being drawn up, India will become an independent republic some time this summer and will thus renounce all its ties with the British crown.

Some of the dominions are of the opinion that the Commonwealth should make no special effort to keep India within the "British family." They say that if India decides to sever all her connections with the British Empire, she will suffer more than will the remaining dominions. They point out that India will then be unable to trade with the dominions on the same favorable terms that she does at present and that she will not have the military protection afforded by membership in the British Commonwealth.

The leaders of the British government in London, on the other hand, would like to keep India in the Commonwealth. They believe that she



A YOUNG WORKER at the Boy's Village in Smithville, Ohio. The village, which is three years old, takes homeless youths. They work on a 127-acre farm.

which are similar to our state legislatures, they attracted wide attention both inside and outside France. This was because almost all the candidates campaigned on national, rather than local, issues.

The Communists, for instance, sought election on the basis of their opposition to the North Atlantic Pact and the European Recovery Program. The groups supporting the present moderate government of Premier Henri Queuille expressed their approval of the Pact and the ERP, arguing that these are essential to world peace and recovery.

Although the Rally of the French People received a minority of the votes—about 26 per cent—this represented a considerable gain over the percentage it obtained at the last elections for departmental councils. In consequence, General de Gaulle is demanding that Premier Queuille call a general election now for a new National Assembly. Under French law, the next general election should normally be held in 1951, but it could be called sooner if the public demands it.

No. 1 Baseball Fan

Next week the big-league baseball season will get under way. The first game is scheduled for the nation's capital where President Truman is expected to throw out the first ball that signals the start of the 1949 pennant race. Baseball is the only sport which is honored each year on opening day by the presence of the nation's Chief Executive.

The first President to take part in such a ceremony was William H. Taft. President Taft, who had played baseball at Yale in his younger days, was an avid fan and used to attend games at various times throughout the season.

Other strong fans among the Presidents were Woodrow Wilson and Warren Harding. Wilson used to watch the games from his car, parked near the right-field foul line in the Washington park. The home team used to station a substitute catcher beside the vehicle to catch any foul balls that otherwise might have struck the Chief Executive's automobile.

Harding, who once owned a minor league club in Ohio, is said to have been the best "pitcher" among the Presidents who have taken part in

the opening-day ceremony. He could throw hard and accurately. A student of the game, he used to keep a complete scorecard.

The most opening-day tosses were made by Franklin Roosevelt. He made eight appearances and had substitutes throw out the first ball on several other occasions. The best fan among the Presidents' wives was Mrs. Calvin Coolidge who often used to attend games which her husband passed up.

Immigration Bill

The Senate is now studying a bill that would permit a certain number of Japanese, Koreans, and inhabitants of the islands in the Western Pacific to enter the United States and become American citizens. The bill would also make citizenship available to people from these areas who are already in this country.

Under our present immigration laws, no one who has entered our land

from Japan, Korea, or the Western Pacific region may become a naturalized American. Thus, about 85,000 Japanese, 3,000 Koreans, and 150 Polynesians who have been living here for a good number of years have been unable to apply for American citizenship.

Your Vocabulary

The italicized words in the sentences below appeared recently in an issue of the Kansas City Star. Match each italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers may be found on page 8, column 4.

- The supporters of the pension bill were able to *salvage* (sal'vij) some of its provisions. (a) destroy (b) change (c) save (d) enact.
- It was *alleged* (ā-lejd') that the bill's opponents were confusing the issue. (a) denied (b) asserted (c) proved (d) not proved.
- The speaker said he was in a *quandary* (kwon'da-ri) about the bill. (a) state of excitement (b) tight spot (c) understanding mood (d) state of doubt.
- The session was *replete* (rē-plēt') with charges and counter-charges. (a) filled (b) noisy (c) prolonged (d) disorderly.
- He was *obdurate* (ob'dū-rate) in his support of the measure. (a) weak (b) unyielding (c) consistent (d) highly active.
- The senator said that the opposition's arguments were *palpably* (pal'pā-bly) false. (a) obviously (b) altogether (c) possibly (d) in only one respect.
- He stated that he would *forbear* (for-bear') making further remarks on the problem. (a) insist on (b) continue (c) consider (d) refrain from.

	B-36	\$2,500,000
	B-29	\$500,000
	Jet F-80	\$100,000
	Sherman Tank	\$55,000
	.90-mm. Antiaircraft Gun	\$53,000
	.50-cal. Machine Gun	\$320

WASHINGTON STAR

HOW MUCH various items of armament cost the American people

would be valuable in time of war because of her strategic location and her great reserves of manpower. In time of peace, she offers a profitable market for a great variety of products.

French Elections

Observers are viewing the recent local elections in France as evidence that the people of that country are still following a "middle of the road" policy. It is pointed out that the parties forming the present moderate government won more votes than did either of the two extremist groups—General de Gaulle's Rally of the French People, or the Communist Party.

Although the elections were only for France's departmental councils,

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Bore: "What would you say if you saw me lined up before a firing squad like the man we just saw in the movie?"
Date: "Fire!"

★ ★ ★

Gas Station Attendant: "You asked for five, sir, but it'll only take four. Will you drive around a bit, and come back for the other one?"

★ ★ ★

He: "Will you sail with me on the sea of matrimony?"
She: "Yes, after you've made a raft of money."

★ ★ ★

"You ask high wages for a young man without experience."
"Yes, sir, but it's much harder work when you don't know anything about it."

★ ★ ★

"Dad, what is a traitor in politics?"
"A traitor is a man who leaves our party and goes over to the other one."
"Well, then, what is a man who leaves his party and comes over to ours?"
"A convert, my boy."

★ ★ ★

"The last time I was in a play, the people could be heard laughing a mile away!"
"Really! What was going on there?"

Patient: "Doctor, are you sure this is pneumonia? Sometimes doctors prescribe for pneumonia, and the patients die of something else."

Doctor (with dignity): "When I prescribe for pneumonia, you die of pneumonia."

★ ★ ★

Small Daughter (during play): "Mummy, do you see those shiny heads in the front row?"
Mother: "S-s-sh. Yes, dear, I do."
Daughter: "Did they buy their tickets from the scalpers?"



LINN IN COLLIER'S

"Nice idea on this one. After every news broadcast an aspirin drops out"

Should the Veterans' Benefits Be Increased?

(Concluded from page 1)

good chance of becoming law. Benefits provided by the new measure would be limited to World War I veterans with relatively low incomes, and to veterans' widows and children under certain conditions.

At the conclusion of this article we shall examine some of the arguments that are advanced for and against the passage of new pension laws. Before doing so, however, it is appropriate that we look at the benefits which former members of the armed services are already receiving.

During the 12-month period ending last June, the cost of aid to U. S. veterans totaled nearly 7 billion dollars. In the previous year, the cost was even higher. Briefly described in the following paragraphs are some of the forms of aid being given:

Hospital and medical care. A veteran who is ill is entitled to medical treatment and care in a Veterans Administration hospital, provided that his illness is "service-connected"—that its cause can be traced to his work in the armed forces. A person who served in wartime and cannot now afford hospital fees may be able to get care in a government hospital, even though his ailment is not service-connected.

Disability compensation. Payments ranging up to \$360 a month are given for disabilities resulting from wartime service. Moreover, the veteran who is handicapped by war injuries can get an additional monthly allowance while learning a new trade. Total disability that is not a result of military work may bring the veteran a pension of moderate size if his income from other sources is low.

Further Benefits

Payments to dependents. After a veteran dies, his widow and dependent children may be able to get a pension from the government. This is true mainly in the case of survivors of veterans who were receiving disability compensation, or whose deaths were caused by service-connected injuries or diseases.

Life insurance. Individuals entering the armed services can obtain \$10,000 worth of life insurance at a much cheaper rate than that paid by civilians. Veterans of the two World Wars are permitted to keep, on a permanent basis, the policies which they obtained while in uniform. Moreover, ex-servicemen who were in World War I or II can purchase these lower-cost policies now even though they had none before they were discharged.

"GI Bill of Rights." This measure, known officially as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, offers to help the veterans of World War II in finding jobs, starting businesses, securing homes, and completing their education.

The first concern of millions of ex-servicemen upon their return to civilian life was to find work. Fortunately, many jobs were available, so most former members of the armed services went back to their old positions or found new ones without federal assistance.

The government, however, helped those who could not readily find work. It agreed to pay each of them \$20 per week while they were looking for jobs. Such payments could be obtained

for as long as a 12-month period.

Some individuals have already received all the unemployment payments to which they were entitled. Many, on the other hand, have never taken advantage of this program. The right of most veterans to obtain unemployment benefits expires this summer. Numerous other programs under the GI Bill of Rights do not end so soon.

If a former serviceman wants a farm or a small business of his own, the government helps him to borrow money for the purchase of land or equipment. Loans may also be obtained to buy homes. Moreover, ex-servicemen in business for themselves

ing allowances, for apprenticeship and "on-the-job" training. Included in this program are numerous ex-servicemen in rural areas who are learning to operate farms.

The "on-the-job" and "on-the-farm" training plan works this way: Employers bring the veterans into their enterprises and teach them trades. The government pays part of the wages of these trainees, and the employers pay the rest.

Millions of persons have received benefits of one kind or another under these various aid programs for veterans. Early this year, the Veterans Administration was sending pensions

are now receiving under present laws.

Many people, in fact, believe that still more should be done for those who engaged in military service during wartime. Such people are among the advocates of the pension measures that have come before Congress this year. To support their position, they argue somewhat as follows:

"Most of the individuals who are now veterans entered the armed services at a very critical period in their lives—the age at which a person is just getting ready for his civilian career, or getting started in it. They had to postpone their plans for perhaps several years. This was a costly delay. Wartime injuries, moreover, have brought permanent handicap to many.

"Through the GI Bill of Rights, disability compensation laws, and other measures, the government has gone far toward repaying the veterans, but it has not gone far enough. New pension laws should be passed for the benefit of wartime members of the armed forces. If the nation can afford to pay out huge sums for aid to foreign countries, it certainly can afford to be generous with its own veterans."

Opposing View

Opponents of this viewpoint make the following reply: "One thing we owe our veterans is a sound national economy. The fact that U. S. government expenditures, for foreign aid and other essential purposes, are already very high is a reason for using great caution in adopting any big, new spending programs. High government costs mean high taxes—for veterans as well as for other citizens. If taxes become so heavy that they hurt business conditions, all of us, including the veterans, will suffer.

"We cannot repay in full, by grants of money, the tremendous debt which we owe those who risked their lives for this nation; and we should not attempt to do so. But we are doing everything that is wise and reasonable to compensate veterans for the sacrifices they made for their country."

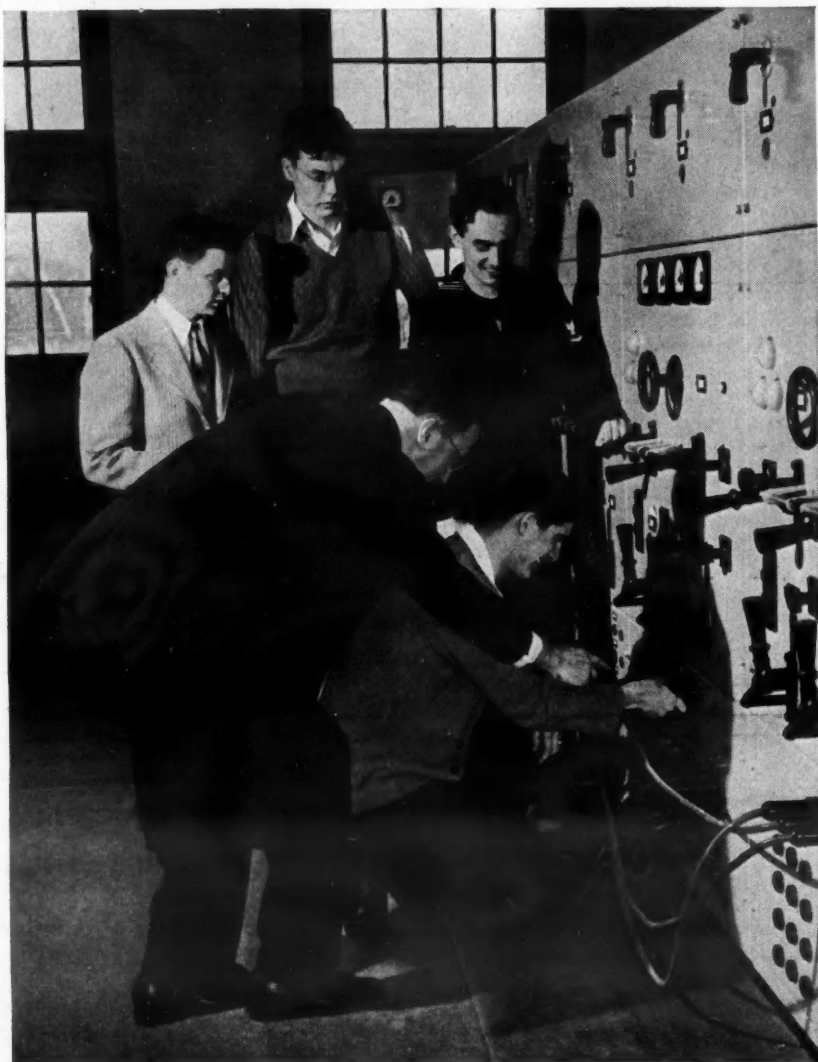
These are among the arguments that will be heard whenever a proposed veterans' pension law is being debated.

Chicago and Philadelphia, which won top honors for cleanliness among the nation's largest cities last year, are now perfecting their plans for the 1949 clean-up campaign. In both cities, students are sparking the drive as a part of their citizenship training program. Art classes make "clean-up" posters, and students make community surveys and put on a tremendous selling campaign among merchants, radio stations, and civic groups.

Last year Chicago and Philadelphia tied for first place in the National Cleanest Town Contest among cities of more than 500,000 population. Memphis, Tennessee, which has a smaller population, was, however, the winner of the grand prize for an outstanding piece of clean-up work.

Pronunciations

Disraeli—diz-ray'li
Trygve Lie—trig'vuh lee
Bogota—bo'go-tah'
Caracas—kar-rah'kahs
Asuncion—ah-soon'syon (y as in yes)



VETERANS' AID PROGRAMS have made it possible for large numbers of young men to continue their education

have been able, for limited periods of time, to obtain government payments under the GI Bill of Rights if their earnings have been below \$100 per month.

Federal aid has enabled large numbers of World War II veterans to take high school and college courses, and thus improve their chances of getting and keeping good jobs. The U. S. Veterans Administration provides money, up to \$500 a year, for an ex-serviceman's tuition, books, and school supplies. If he is going to school full time, it makes payments ranging up to \$120 per month—for as long as four years, in some cases—to cover his living expenses and those of his dependents.

Many veterans, instead of going to school, have wanted vocational preparation which can best be obtained by practicing a trade, so the GI Bill of Rights provides funds, including liv-

ing or disability payments to about 3 million persons—either disabled ex-servicemen or dependents of deceased veterans. At the same time, the Veterans Administration was providing hospital care for more than 110,000 patients.

More than 7 million persons who entered military service during the 1940's were holding federal life insurance policies. Over 1½ million veterans were going to school under the GI Bill of Rights, and more than 600,000 were taking on-the-job or on-the-farm training. By the end of February 1949, over 1½ million home, farm, and business loans had been made under the GI Bill of Rights.

These are not the only special benefits which ex-servicemen obtain from the government, but they are among the most important ones. There is not a great deal of opposition to the services and payments that veterans

Science News

FISH life in the Bikini Atoll, where the atom bomb was tested, seems to be going on as if nothing had happened. The same classes of fish in about the same numbers as before the explosion were observed recently by a scientist of the United States National Museum. Their way of life seems unchanged, and they have as much vigor as before.

Although millions of fish were destroyed in the Bikini blast, experts believe that the general race characteristics were not affected. This is true because these lower forms of animal life are less sensitive to destructive radiation than are humans. There may be deep-seated changes, however, which will not show up for several generations.

★ ★ ★

After 15 years' work, two scientists of the Department of Agriculture have developed a synthetic chemical thought to be more effective as a pest-killer than DDT. The chemical resembles a natural substance extracted from a flower grown in Japan and the Belgian Congo. For many years, we have been importing large quantities of this flower for use in making various insecticides. During the war, the United States Army used solutions from the imported flower to make insect sprays.

The new synthetic chemical is not dangerous to humans, but it is so potent as a bug killer that experts believe it may mean the eventual destruction of the housefly, the mosquito, and the cockroach.

★ ★ ★

Chemists have discovered a new use for surplus milk. A spun fiber made from milk protein is being used to make air filters for automobile carburetors. Four parts fiber and one part wool are combined chemically in the manufacture of the material. The filter is built in a cartridge, so that it is both easy and inexpensive to replace. When the filter becomes filled with dirt, the cartridge can be removed and replaced with a new one.

This casein fiber-wool mixture has been found suitable for bed mattresses because of its elasticity, and is also being used in the manufacture of paint brushes.

—By DOROTHY ADAMS.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND scientists have discovered that an anti-polio vaccine may be developed from the virus of a disease that affects young chickens. Here one of the scientists works on the experiments that are being conducted.



RSC

Television and Sports

Is Video Keeping People Away from Athletic Events, or Is It Making New Fans and Increasing Actual Attendance?

WHAT effect is television going to have on sports? That question is still unsettled even though video has already become a firmly established industry. Some are convinced that the invention will help sports, and think that the televising of athletic events should be even more widespread than at present. Others maintain that great harm will be done to sports unless the televising of athletic activities is curbed.

Those who think that the telecasting of sports is adding to the interest in them argue as follows:

"Television will make many new sports fans. When sporting events are brought into the home on the television screen, they excite the curiosity of members of the family who never before have been interested in such activities. These individuals then want to see the action at first hand. Thus, attendance at sporting events is boosted.

"The logic of this theory is borne out by the history of radio. When sporting events were first broadcast, promoters predicted that people would stay home and listen to the radio account in preference to attending. But radio had the opposite effect. By exciting the curiosity of listeners, it made thousands of new fans and helped to usher in the greatest era of sports that the country had ever known. Television will have a similar effect.

"Moreover, while television is a good substitute for actual attendance, one must always remember that it is a substitute. Video cannot convey the atmosphere of an event, the 'color,' the sense of 'being there' that attendance gives. The person who is content to follow sports entirely by television is likely to be one who never would attend such events anyway. The enthusiastic fan will attend a game whenever he gets a chance to do so.

"If attendance is dropping at sports affairs—as some promoters claim—television should not be blamed. The chances are that the promoters are not offering first-class attractions. Many top-flight spectacles such as the World Series and some of the leading college football games are televised, yet they continue to fill the grandstands to capacity."

Here are the views of those who feel that television will do great harm to sports:

"If the televising of sporting events continues, attendance will continue to slump, and sports promoters will no longer be able to finance first-class exhibitions. They will either have to close shop or else put on second-rate affairs that will have little appeal to anyone.

"Attendance at many sporting events is already falling off, and television is undoubtedly a major reason for the slump. Who is going to incur the trouble and expense of getting tickets, elbowing his way through the crowd, and sitting on a hard seat while watching the exhibition when he can lounge in a comfortable chair in his own living room and perhaps enjoy a better view of the action than if he had attended in person?

"It is true that radio in the 1920's stimulated interest in sports, but it is false to say that television will have the same effect. The two mediums differ. Radio aroused curiosity, and people wanted to see the events that were being described. In television they do see them, and their curiosity is satisfied. They have no urge to be there in person.

"Television is having particularly harmful effects on sporting events in many small cities and towns which are located near a large city. For example, minor league baseball at Newark, New Jersey, has suffered badly through a drop in attendance during the past year. The reason? Baseball followers prefer to stay home and see the big league games which are televised from near-by New York. That situation is being duplicated in many cities and towns throughout the country. It will become more and more evident as television expands."

This controversy is likely to continue for some time. The continued growth of television in the months ahead may supply evidence that will settle the issue, one way or the other. Meanwhile, television stations are paying increasingly large sums for the right to telecast sporting events, so these payments help to compensate for any falling of attendance which may be caused by video.

—By HOWARD O. SWEET.

Readers Say—

I do not think our government should give out information about either the atom bomb or atomic research. In the event of a war, such information would be used by the enemy to destroy our cities and defeat our armed forces.

TOM WRIGHT,
Woodlake, California

★ ★ ★

In a recent issue, Vera Mae Shadle said that price controls should be restored. I disagree. Price controls would only create a black market and cause a scarcity of goods in the stores that deal with the public in a legitimate manner. I also believe that prices will continue their present downward trend.

VIRGINIA YEAKEY,
Tulsa, Oklahoma

★ ★ ★

I do not believe Congress should adopt legislation providing federal aid to education. For one thing, such a measure would enable the national government to have too much control over our public school system. For another, it would cause our taxes to go up considerably.

LORELEI WILSON,
Portland, Oregon

★ ★ ★

We are of the opinion that the federal government should give financial aid to the nation's schools. The educational system is much better in some parts of the country than in others. Federal aid would make all our schools uniformly good.

ED KLEINKE,
ED KOENIGS,
Bay City, Michigan



To my mind, our country is committing itself to a race for arms, allies, and bases, and the only outcome of this can be war. I think we should prepare ourselves for a possible conflict, but I do not believe that we are working hard enough for world peace. If another war occurred, people in every country would be subject to both the atom bomb and bacteriological warfare.

JERRY KRESGE,
Burlington, Iowa

★ ★ ★

In the March 14 issue, Jack Wilcox said that he thought we were humane when we cut the war short by using the atom bomb against Japan. Would he have considered the Japanese humane if they had used the atom bomb against us?

LESLIE SMITH,
Ridgefield Park,
New Jersey

★ ★ ★

(Address your letters to Readers Say, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.)

Careers for Tomorrow - - - In Pro Baseball

SOME young athletes dream at one time or another of becoming professional baseball players, but those who are thinking seriously of a career on the diamond should look over the prospects carefully before they take the plunge. While the profession offers good rewards to a few people, it is disappointing to many.

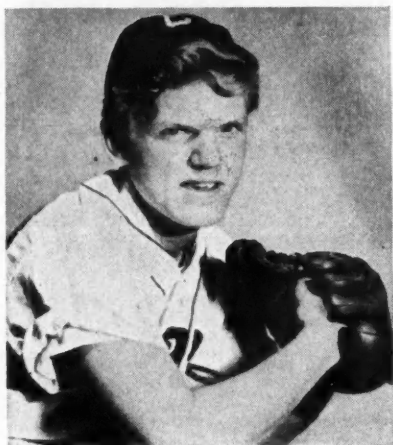
The first requirement of a professional baseball player is, of course, skill in playing the game. He must be well grounded in the basic mechanics of running, throwing, and batting. An athlete's endurance must be good, too, for the grind of playing day after day is a grueling one. His coordination and agility must be developed to a high degree. Although a person may be able to "get by" in amateur ball despite certain shortcomings, he cannot expect to succeed as a professional if he has any deficiencies such as lack of speed afoot or a weak throwing arm.

Since baseball is a team game, a player must be willing to take orders, and at times must expect to sacrifice his own good for that of the group. He must have a healthy mental attitude that will keep him from becoming discouraged on occasions when he plays poorly.

A young man may get his "start" in baseball in one of these ways. He may be "discovered" by one of the major league scouts who are constantly on the lookout for promising talent. He may take part in "try-out" sessions held throughout the country by major league teams. Or he may attend one of the privately operated "baseball

schools" held each winter in the South. Usually conducted by former major league players, the schools give six weeks or so of intensive coaching at a moderate fee.

The *Sporting News*, which may be purchased at any large newsstand, carries advertisements of a number of such schools. Further information may be obtained by writing the schools



CAN HE find a berth in pro baseball?

whose addresses are given in that periodical.

Young athletes usually begin their professional play with one of the minor clubs. The pay varies according to the league, but the newcomer may not get much more than \$100 a month at first. As he becomes more skilled, he will advance to better teams, and his earnings will increase somewhat.

If a young player develops suffi-

ciently to reach the major leagues, and stay there, he is assured of making at least \$5,000 a year. Such established stars as Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, and Bob Feller may draw from \$70,000 to \$90,000 a season. However, most players never climb over the \$15,000 mark.

The young athlete should realize that there is intense competition at the big league level. Only a relatively small number of new players are taken on by leagues each year, and some of these last but a season or two. For the few who "make the grade," baseball offers a good chance. It is a healthy, outdoor life and offers the participant the chance for public acclaim. Those who play 10 years in the major leagues are assured of a \$100-a-month pension after the age of 50.

A serious draw-back to pro ball as a vocation is that the players usually reach the end of their diamond career in their middle or late thirties. Thus, at the very time when men in most fields are beginning to hit their stride, a ball player must start out in another calling. Some may get jobs as managers or coaches and a few may have saved enough to retire, but many players have to find some new way to earn a living.

Girls who are interested in baseball sometimes fill secretarial and clerical jobs in the business offices of professional clubs. Girls' professional softball teams are popular in some areas, but only a very few players earn a good income from the game.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Study Guide

Veterans

1. About how many war veterans are there in the United States at the present time?
2. Describe two veterans' pension bills that have been introduced in Congress this year.
3. Tell of some of the benefits that the U. S. government gives to sick and disabled veterans.
4. List some of the benefits which are provided under the "GI Bill of Rights."
5. About how much money did the United States spend on veterans during the 12-month period ending last June?
6. Present the arguments made by people who feel that veterans should get sizable pensions in addition to the benefits they are now receiving.
7. Give the arguments of those who disagree with this point of view.

Discussion

1. From the standpoint of the veterans themselves, do you think it would or would not be advisable for the government to help them more than it is now doing? Explain your position.
2. From the standpoint of the nation's financial position, do you think increased assistance to veterans can be safely provided? Give reasons for your answer.

Hemisphere Relations

1. Why was there little contact between the United States and the nations of Latin America from the time that the Monroe Doctrine was proclaimed to the 1840's?
2. What happened to cause bitterness among the nations in the 1840's?
3. What was the chief job given to the first union of the American republics?
4. Why were relations between the U. S. and the Latin nations strained between 1900 and 1930?
5. What is the Organization of American States?
6. Briefly discuss the way in which the organization does its work.
7. What difficult problem still hangs over the entire scene of inter-American relations?

Discussion

1. What do you think can be the most important work performed by the Organization of American States? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Do you or do you not think the U. S. should set up a "Marshall Plan" for Latin America? Explain your position.

Miscellaneous

1. Who was recently appointed as UN administrator for the coming elections in Kashmir?
2. What was the first major campaign promise of President Truman to be enacted into law by Congress?
3. Who are the "modern forty-niners"?
4. What two opposite views are held concerning the effect of the North Atlantic Pact on the United Nations?
5. Give the argument of those who think that television will benefit sports. Why do some people disagree with this view?
6. Why is Greenland considered of great importance in any future conflict?

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Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (c) save; 2. (b) asserted; 3. (d) state of doubt; 4. (a) filled; 5. (b) unyielding; 6. (a) obviously; 7. (d) refrain from.

Historical Backgrounds - - Men of Great Britain

WINSTON CHURCHILL, Great Britain's wartime Prime Minister, received a rousing welcome on his recent visit to the United States. He is generally considered the outstanding British statesman of this generation. To people the world over he is a symbol of the courage and fortitude of his countrymen.

Although faced with a tide of reverses in the early years of the war, Churchill refused to consider the possibility of defeat. He mobilized his country's human and material resources and, by his example, inspired the people to fight on.

While he no longer heads the British government, "Winnie," as he is known to his admirers, continues to serve his country. As leader of the Conservative Party, he heads the opposition forces in the House of Commons. Many of his ideas and policies are not currently popular in Britain, but he is still respected as a great leader.

But Churchill is only one of a long list of outstanding British statesmen. Some, like him, guided their nation through periods of crisis. Others, though living in more peaceful times, made equally important contributions to Britain's welfare and progress.

Churchill's counterpart in the First World War was David Lloyd George.



Pitt

Starting as head of the important Department of Munitions, he later moved to the top post in the War Department and from there to premiership. He guided his country through that war crisis with the same dogged determination that has characterized the British throughout modern history.

Another great wartime leader of Great Britain was William Pitt, "The Younger" (so-called to distinguish him from his father who was also a prominent statesman). Pitt became Prime Minister at the age of 24 and was in office during the troubled years of the French Revolution and the wars that followed. Pitt has been criticized for the harsh and repressive measures he took while England was at war with France, but he is believed by many to have been largely responsible for saving England and Europe from the domination of Napoleon.

Two men who rank among Britain's foremost peacetime leaders are Benjamin Disraeli and William E. Gladstone. Rising to prominence at about the same time, they became two of the most powerful political figures in Parliament during the latter half of the 19th Century. Historians debate the relative greatness of these men, but both made important marks in British history.

Gladstone is especially noted for his efforts in behalf of political and social reform. He introduced the use of the secret ballot in British elections and took numerous steps to aid Ireland. He was a member of Parliament for 60 years and leader of the Liberal Party for about 30 years. He served four times as Prime Minister.

Disraeli is best known for his efforts to build a great British Empire. He was responsible for the purchase of shares in the Suez Canal, which gave Britain a dominant position in the Mediterranean. Disraeli led the Conservative Party in the House of Commons for over 25 years and was twice Prime Minister.

The men previously mentioned all headed the government of their country. There are, however, many statesmen who have made outstanding records in positions of lesser importance. One such man was Edmund Burke, who has been described as "one of the most influential orators the House of Commons has ever known."

This great Briton is probably best known to Americans for his efforts to find a peaceful solution of the trouble between England and the British colonies of America. Most high school students are familiar with his famous speech "On Conciliation with America."

—By AMALIE ALVEY.



Disraeli



Churchill